

Appl. No. 10/528,494
Amdt. Date: 10/23/2006
Reply to Office Action of April 21, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This response is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed April 4, 2006 in the above-captioned application.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Huang et al (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0025229), and claims 1 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Biewer (3,837,309). Reconsideration is respectfully requested. It is believed that the claims remaining in the application are patentably distinguishable over the cited references for the reasons hereinafter set forth.

An anticipating reference must disclose each and every element of the claimed invention. Huang et al. and Biewer, however fail to teach, show or suggest temporary buoyancy means mounted on the distal ends of pontoons extending radially outwardly from the platform hull. Huang et al. discloses a multi-column platform having corner located legs 104 interconnected by pontoons 106. Biewer likewise discloses a multi-column platform 222 having legs interconnected by hollow braces 222c – 222f.

It is believed therefore that the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is not proper and it is respectfully requested that it be withdrawn.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 3 and 6 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang et al. in view of Husvik et al. (6,022,174). For the reasons set forth above, it is believed that Huang

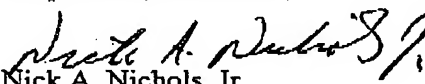
Appl. No. 10/528,494
Amdt. Date: 10/23/2006
Reply to Office Action of April 21, 2006

et al. and Biewer fail to teach, show or suggest the Applicant's invention as claimed in claims 1 and 5, the remaining independent claims in the application, which claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Consequently, the claims depending therefrom are also in condition for allowance. Furthermore, claim 5 has been amended herein to include the allowable subject matter of canceled claims 7-9.

The citation of the prior art made of record and not relied upon is noted. However, it is believed that the prior art not relied upon is no more pertinent than the applied references, and therefore a detailed discussion of the prior art not relied upon is not deemed necessary for a full and complete response to the outstanding office action.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,


Nick A. Nichols, Jr.
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 29,573

Nichols IP PC
P. O. Box 16399
Sugar Land, TX 77496-6399
281-494-8331